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APPENDIX H

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provide by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON THE REVERSE OF THE FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFF ALPHONSO REED and all others similarly situated					DEFENDANT MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT & MIDLAND FUNDING, LLC						
(c) Andr	(E. Attorney's (Firm Name, A	First Listed Plaintiff Philade XCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CAS Address, and Telephone Number) orenz, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Aven	SES) $ \label{eq:cary_L_constraint} $ Cary L_c Flitter, Esq. and	County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE LAND INVOLVED.							
II. B	ASIS OF JURISD	ICTION (Place an "X" in On	e Box Only)	II. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES(Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff							
□1 □2	U.S. Government Plaintiff U.S. Government Defendant	□ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government N □ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizgnehia)	ot a Party)	(For Diversity Ca PTF Citizen of This State Citizen of Another State		DEF 1 Incorporated or Pr of Business In This 2 2 Incorporated and 1	s State Principal Place 5 5 5				
	Detendant	(indicate Chizenship	or raities in hem in)	of Business In Another State Citizen or Subject of a 3 5 Foreign Nation Foreign Country			n Another State ☐ 6 ☐ 6				
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V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) □ Removed from □ Remanded from □ Appeal to District □ Removed from □ Reopened □ State Court Appellate Court Reopened □ State Court □ State Court Reopened □ State Court □ State Cour											
VI. C	AUSE OF ACTION	15 U.S.C. § 1692	e under which you are filing Fair Debt Collection Prac		tional sta	tutes unless diversity):					
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT: CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER F.R.C.P. 23		CLASS ACTION	DEMAND \$	CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint JURY DEMAND: Yes No.							
	RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY	(See instructions):	JUDGE		DO	OCKET NUMBER					
S/	19/15	2	SIGNATURE OF ATTOR	NEY OF RECORD	P	>					
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APPENDIX I

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

ALPHONSO REED, and all others similarly situated : CIVIL ACTION

	V. : NO.					
	AND CREDIT MANAGEMENT : LAND FUNDING, LLC :					
plainting the side of designation the planting p	ordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, court ff shall complete a case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the first form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regar ation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and aintiff and all other parties, a case management track designation form specifying the that defendant believes the case should be assigned.	ne t he 1 din I se	ime reve g sa rve	e of erse aid on		
SELEC	CT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:					
(a)	Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. §2241 through §2255.	()		
(b)	Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits					
(c)	Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule					
(d)	Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos.					
(e)	(X)			
(f)	Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks.	()		
8/19/ Date	Attorney at Law Attorney for Plaintiff					
610-822-0782 610-667-0552 amilz@consume Telephone Fax Number E-Mail Address		<u>om</u>				

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT APPENDIX F FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA - DESIGNATION FORM to be used by counsel to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to appropriate calendar. Address of Plaintiff: 6030 Clifford Terrace, Philadelphia, PA 19151 Address of Defendants: 8875 Aero Drive, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92123 Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Philadelphia, PA 19151 (Use Reverse Side For Additional Space) Does this civil action involve a nongovernmental corporate party with any parent corporation and any publicly held corporation owning 10% or more of its stock? (Attach two copies of the Disclosure Statement Form in accordance with Fed.R.Civ.P. 7.1(a) Yes No 🛛 Does this case involve multidistrict litigation possibilities? No 🗵 Yes 🗌 RELATED CASE, IF ANY: Case Number: Judge Date Terminated: Civil cases are deemed related when yes is answered to any of the following questions: 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes 🗌 No 🛛 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes 🗌 No 🔯 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? Yes 🔲 No 🛛 CIVIL: (Place ☑ in ONE CATEGORY ONLY) A. Federal Question Cases: B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 2. FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust Marine Personal Injury 5 Patent 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Labor-Management Relations 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify) 7. Civil Rights 7. Products Liability 8. Habeas Corpus 8. Products Liability (Asbestos) 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 9. All other Diversity Cases Social Security Review Cases (Please specify) 11. All other Federal Question Cases (Please specify) Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (Check appropriate Category) , counsel of record do hereby certify: Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, Section 3(c)(2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs; Relief other than monetary damages is sought DATE: 8/19/15 Attorney-at-Law Attorney I.D. **NOTE:** A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except

as noted above.

DATE:__ 8/19/15 CIV.609 (4/03)

Attorney-at-Law

Attorney I.D.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

ALPHONSO REED, and all others similarly situated, 6030 Clifford Terrace Philadelphia, PA 19151,

Plaintiff,

CIVIL ACTION

VS.

MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT 8875 Aero Drive, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92123

NO.

and

MIDLAND FUNDING, LLC 8875 Aero Drive, Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92123,

Defendants.

CLASS ACTION

COMPLAINT

I. <u>INTRODUCTION</u>

- 1. This is a consumer class action for damages brought pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. §1692 ("FDCPA"). The FDCPA prohibits debt collectors from engaging in deceptive and unfair practices in the collection of consumer debt.
- 2. Defendant debt collectors sent a collection notice to Plaintiff and the class that misrepresents potential tax implications of settlement of the consumer debt claimed due.

 Defendants deceptively state in their collection letter to Plaintiff and that Class that they "will report forgiveness of debt as required by IRS regulations," even though there can be no conceivable circumstances in which IRS reporting would be required on the small debts of under \$600.

3. Defendants have violated the FDCPA by using false and deceptive representations in the collection of consumer debt.

II. <u>JURISDICTION</u>

- 4. Jurisdiction arises under the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. §1692k, and 28 U.S.C. §\$1331 and 1337.
- 5. *In personam* jurisdiction exists and venue is proper, as Defendants do business in this district and Plaintiff is situate in this district.

III. PARTIES

- 6. Plaintiff Alphonso Reed is a consumer who resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the address captioned above.
- 7. Defendant Midland Credit Management ("MCM") is a nationwide debt collector with a principal place of business at the address captioned.
- 8. Defendant Midland Funding, LLC ("Midland Funding") is a purchaser of charged-off consumer debts and has a principal place of business at the address captioned.
- 9. Defendants MCM and Midland Funding are collectively referred to as "Midland" or "Defendants."
- 10. Defendants regularly engage in the collection of consumer debts using the mails and telephone or purchase consumer debt after default for the purposes of collection.
- 11. Each Defendant is a "debt collector" as that term is contemplated in the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).
 - 12. Midland Funding engaged MCM to collect the accounts here in issue.
 - 13. Midland Funding is responsible for the acts of its collector, MCM.

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM

- 14. On August 26, 2014, Defendant MCM sent Plaintiff a communication in connection with a consumer debt allegedly due Midland Funding and arising from an old GE Capital Retail Bank/Old Navy account. (See correspondence from MCM attached hereto as Exhibit "A," redacted per Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 5.2).
- 15. The collection communication listed a "Current Balance: \$307.69." (See Exhibit "A").
- 16. The August 26, 2014 letter goes on to state: "We will report forgiveness of debt as required by IRS regulations." (Id.).
- 17. Section 6050P of the Internal Revenue Code and its regulations require that an applicable entity report (on Form 1099-C) any cancellation or discharge of indebtedness in excess of \$600.00, only if there has occurred an "identifiable event" described in paragraph (b)(2) of that section.
- 18. With a debt in the amount of \$307.69, as claimed here, there could never be any discharge over \$600.00 sufficient to trigger Midland's IRS reporting obligation.
- 19. As a Form 1099-C would never issue in relation to this debt, injecting the gratuitous language about "report[ing of] forgiveness of debt as required by IRS regulations" serves only to confuse, deceive and intimidate.
- 20. The gratuitous, *in terrorem* reference in a collection letter that a creditor may be required to provide information on the consumer to the IRS is a collection ploy which suggests involvement of the IRS to the least sophisticated consumer.
- 21. The above statement is deceptive and misleading in the context of a collection letter seeking less than \$600.00.

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CLASS ALLEGATIONS

- 22. Plaintiff brings this action on his own behalf and on behalf of a Class designated pursuant to Rules 23(a) and 23(b)(3) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
 - 23. Plaintiff proposes to define the Class as follows:
 - a. All persons with addresses within the Eastern District of Pennsylvania;
 - b. who were sent one or more letter(s) from Defendant MCM on behalf of Defendant Midland Funding;
 - attempting to collect a consumer debt alleged due in connection with a GE
 Capital Retail Bank/ Old Navy account;
 - d. where the debt being collected was stated to be less than \$600.00; and
 - e. which stated "We will report forgiveness of debt as required by IRS regulations";
 - f. where the letter(s) bears a send date between August 26, 2014 and the date of the filing of this complaint.
- 24. The Class is believed to be so numerous that joinder of all members is impractical. This Complaint concerns mass-produced form collection letters.
 - 25. There are questions of law or fact common to the Class. These include:
 - a. Whether Defendants made false, deceptive or misleading representations in connection with the collection of a debt in violation of §1692e;
 - b. Whether Defendants engaged in false representations and deceptive means to collect a consumer debt alleged due, in violation of 15 U.S.C. §1692e(10);
 - c. Whether the form collection notice deceptively mentions IRS reporting and IRS regulations.

- d. Whether and what amount of statutory damages are recoverable classwide by Plaintiff and the Class for Midland's violation.
- 26. Plaintiff's claims are typical of the claims of the Class. Plaintiff and all Class Members were mailed the collection letter for an alleged GE Capital Retail Bank/ Old Navy debt with the same improper statement about IRS reporting and regulations. All claims are based on the same factual and legal theories, and there are no individualized issues.
- 27. Plaintiff will fairly and adequately protect the interests of the Class. Plaintiff has no interests antagonistic to those of the Class and Plaintiff's counsel is competent and experienced in consumer credit cases and class actions.
- 28. The questions of law or fact common to the Class predominate over any questions affecting only individual members, and a class action is superior to other available methods for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy. The Class Members are consumer debtors, who may be unable to locate or afford to hire lawyers. Most are probably unaware that their rights, and the FDCPA, have been violated.
- 29. The Class may be certified under Fed. R. Civ. P. 23(b)(3), as such represents a superior method for the fair and efficient adjudication of this controversy in that:
 - a. Congress specifically contemplated FDCPA class actions as a principal means of enforcing the statute by private attorneys general. 15 U.S.C. § 1692k.
 - b. The interest of Class Members in individually controlling the prosecution of separate claims against debt collectors is small because the maximum statutory damages available in an individual action under the Act is \$1,000.00.
 - c. This class action covering consumers within the geographic boundaries of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania is likely to be easily manageable.

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d. The case may require expert testimony, the substantial cost of which may be spread among the Class Members.

COUNT I – FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT

- 30. Plaintiff repeats the allegations set forth above as if the same were set forth at length herein.
- 31. Defendants violated the FDCPA by sending collection letters to Plaintiff and the Class which:
 - a. Make false, deceptive, or misleading representations or statements in connection with the collection of consumer debt, 15 U.S.C. § 1692e; and
 - b. Use false representation and deceptive means to collect a consumer debt, 15 U.S.C. §1692e(10).

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff Alphonso Reed, on behalf of himself and all others similarly situated, demands judgment against Defendants Midland Credit Management, Inc. and Midland Funding, LLC for:

- (a) Damages;
- (b) Attorney's fees and costs; and
- (c) Such other and further relief as the Court shall deem just and proper.

V. <u>DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL</u>

Plaintiff demands a trial by jury as to all issues so triable.

Respectfully submitted:

Date: 8/19/15

CARY L. FLITTER
THEODORE E. LORENZ
ANDREW M. MILZ
FLITTER LORENZ, PC

450 N. Narberth Avenue, Suite 101 Narberth, PA 19072 (610) 822-0782

CARLO SABATINI BRETT FREEMAN SABATINI LAW FIRM, LLC 216 N. Blakely Street Dunmore, PA 18512 (570) 341-9000

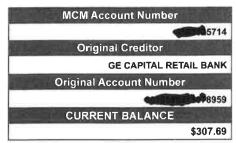
Attorneys for Plaintiff and the Class

EXHIBIT "A"

8875 Aero Drive Suite 200 San Diego, CA 92123

08-26-2014

Alphonso Reed 116 N Carol Blvd Upper Darby, PA 19082-1304



You are pre-approved for a 20% discount! Call now: (800) 282-2644

Choose The Option That Works For You

Dear Alphonso,

Midland Credit Management, Inc., understands a one-size payment plan doesn't fit everyone's needs. Special offers are now available to help you resolve your unpaid GE Capital Retail Bank / Old Navy account. Select one of the three options below and get closer to having one less thing to worry about.

Option 1: 20% OFF Payment Due Date: 09-25-2014 You Pay Only

\$246.15

Option 2: 10% OFF

3 Monthly Payments of Only

First Payment Due Date: 09-25-2014

\$92.30

Option 3: To hear more options, call one of our Account Managers.

If these options don't work for you, call one of our Account Managers to help you set up a payment plan that does.

Sincerely

H. Torres

Division Manager

This account may still be reported on your credit report as unpaid.

*If you pay your full balance, we will report your account as Paid in Full. If you pay less than your full balance, we will report your account as Paid in Full for less than the full balance.

Benefits of Paying!

- > Save up to \$61.53 if you choose Option 1.
- Offer expiration date: 09-25-2014
- After receiving your final payment, we will consider the account paid.*

CALL US TODAY! (800) 282-2644

We are not obligated to renew this offer. We will report forgiveness of debt as required by IRS regulations.

Hours of Operation:

M – Th: 5:00am – 9:00pm PST Fri: 5:00am – 5:00pm PST Sat: 5:00am – 5:00pm PST 5:00am - 9:00pm PST

(800) 282-2644



Click: www.midlandcreditonline.com



Mail:

Payment coupon below

PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE FOR IMPORTANT INFORMATION.

Please lear off and return lower portion with payment in the envelope provided

PAYMENT COUPON

MCM Account No.: Original Account No.: Current Balance:

Payment Due Date: 09-25-2014

Amount Enclosed:

16714

Payment Options:

Mail in this coupon with your payment

2) Pay by phone (800) 282-2644

Make Check Payable to: Midland Credit Management, Inc.

MCM PO Box 60578

Los Angeles, CA 90060-0578

Case 2:15-cv-04736-JS Document 1 Filed 08/19/15 Page 13 of 13 Important Disclosure Information:

Please understand this is a communication from a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt. Any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Calls to and/or from this company may be monitored or recorded.

The offer to settle this account for the discount(s) offered in this letter remains open until 09-25-2014. For further information, please call one of our Account Managers at (800) 282-2644.

MAIL PAYMENTS TO: P.O. Box 60578, Los Angeles, CA 90060-0578

MAIL CORRESPONDENCE BUT NO PAYMENTS TO: MCM's business address at 8875 Aero Drive, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92123

We are required under state law to notify consumers of the following rights. This list does not contain a complete list of the rights consumers have under state and federal law:

IF YOU LIVE IN COLORADO, THIS APPLIES TO YOU:

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLORADO FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT, SEE WWW.COLORADOATTORNEYGENERAL.GOV/CA

A consumer has the right to request in writing that a debt collector or collection agency cease further communication with the consumer. A written request to cease communication will not prohibit the debt collector or collection agency from taking any other action authorized by law to collect the debt.

Midland Credit Management has a Colorado office with the following address and telephone number: 80 Garden Center, Suite 3, Broomfield, CO 80020. Telephone number: (303) 920-4763.

Only physical in-person payments may be accepted at this office location. All payments made via mail should be sent to the following address: P.O. Box 60578, Los Angeles, CA 90060-0578

IF YOU LIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS, THIS APPLIES TO YOU:

NOTICE OF IMPORTANT RIGHTS: You have the right to make a written or oral request that telephone calls regarding your debt not be made to you at your place of employment. Any such oral request will be valid for only ten (10) days unless you provide written confirmation of the request postmarked or delivered within seven (7) days of such request. You may terminate this request by writing to Midland Credit Management, Inc.

IF YOU LIVE IN MINNESOTA, THIS APPLIES TO YOU: This collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Dept. of Commerce.

IF YOU LIVE IN NEW YORK CITY, THIS APPLIES TO YOU: New York City Department of Consumer Affairs License Number 1140603, 1207829, 1207820, 1227728

IF YOU LIVE IN NORTH CAROLINA, THIS APPLIES TO YOU: North Carolina Department of Insurance Permit #101659, #4182, #4250, and #3777. Midland Credit Management, Inc. 8875 Aero Drive, Suite 200, San Diego, CA 92123

IF YOU LIVE IN TENNESSEE, THIS APPLIES TO YOU: This collection agency is licensed by the Collection Service Board of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

IF YOU LIVE IN CALIFORNIA, THIS APPLIES TO YOU:

The state Rosenthal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and the federal Fair Debt Collection Practices Act require that, except under unusual circumstances, collectors may not contact you before 8 a.m. or after 9 p.m. They may not harass you by using threats of violence or arrest or by using obscene language. Collectors may not use false or misleading statements or call you at work if they know or have reason to know that you may not receive personal calls at work. For the most part, collectors may not tell another person, other than your attorney or spouse, about your debt. Collectors may contact another person to confirm your location or enforce a judgment. For more information about debt collection activities, you may contact the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or http://www.ftc.gov.

"Nonprofit credit counseling services may be available in the area."

As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit-reporting agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations.

IF YOU LIVE IN UTAH, THIS APPLIES TO YOU: As required by Utah law, you are hereby notified that a negative report on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to meet the terms of your credit obligations.

IF YOU LIVE IN WYOMING, THIS APPLIES TO YOU: As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative report on your credit record may be submitted to a credit reporting agency if you fail to meet the terms of your credit obligations.